

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20  
/077 W

-----001413 080611Z /14

R 071445Z SEP 78  
FM AMCONSUL BREMEN  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
SECSTATE WASHDC 2728

UNCLAS BREMEN 548

DEPT FOR EUR/CE AND INR/REU

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, GW  
SUBJECT: BREMEN SENATOR FOR FINANCE JANTZEN RESIGNED  
UNEXPECTEDLY

1. ON SEPTEMBER 4, THE BREMEN SENATOR FOR FINANCE, KARL-HEINZ JANTZEN, SPD, RESIGNED HIS POSITION FOR "HEALTH REASONS". JANTZEN'S RESIGNATION CAME AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO SPD INSIDERS AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC. IN HIS RESIGNATION STATEMENT, HE CONDEMNED THE "GROWING POLARIZATION AMONG THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE DETERIORATION OF THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN BREMEN AND IN THE FRG". HIS CRITICISM OF THE GROWING DEVISIVENESS WITHIN AND AMONG THE POLITICAL PARTIES INCLUDED HIS OWN SPD. JANTZEN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT "COMMON VALUES WOULD AGAIN BECOME MORE IMPORTANT THAN DIFFERENCES IN THE DAILY POLITICAL LIFE".

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2. THE 56-YEAR OLD JANTZEN WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE BREMEN METAL WORKERS' UNION UNTIL 1968, WHEN HE BECAME LAND BREMEN SENATOR FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS AND LABOR. FROM 1971 TO 1975, HE WAS SENATOR FOR ECONOMICS AND LABOR, AND AFTER THE 1975 BREMEN LAND ELECTIONS, HE WAS ELECTED SENATOR FOR FINANCE. JANTZEN, WHO BELONGS TO THE MODERATE WING OF THE BREMEN SPD,

WAS HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM IN HIS OWN PARTY BECAUSE OF HIS PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND HIS HUMANE NATURE. EVEN THE TWO BREMEN OPPOSITION PARTIES, CDU AND FDP, GAVE RECOGNITION TO JANTZEN'S COMPETENCE IN HIS VARIOUS SENATORIAL POSITIONS. DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS, HE WAS FREQUENTLY MENTIONED AS THE BEST POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR FOR BUERGERMEISTER KOSCHNICK, IF THE LATTER SHOULD DECIDE TO LEAVE BREMEN FOR BONN.

3. BUERGERMEISTER KOSCHNICK WAS RATHER EMBARRASSED BY JANTZEN'S RESIGNATION AND IN VAIN TRIED TO MAKE HIM CHANGE HIS MIND. THE MAYOR NOTED THE CHANGING COMPOSITION OF THE BREMEN LAND GOVERNMENT WHEN HE REGRETFULLY STATED THAT "THERE WERE NOT MANY OF THE OLD CREW LEFT IN THE SENAT", AND HE COMPLAINED THAT "GOVERNING WOULD NOT BECOME EASIER" FOR HIM. AS JANTZEN'S SUCCESSOR, KOSCHNICK PROPOSED THE LEFTIST DR. HENNIG SCHERF, 39, LAND BREMEN SPD CHAIRMAN AND CHAIRMAN OF THE POWERFUL BUERGERSCHAFT COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE. SCHERF ACCEPTED KOSCHNICK'S OFFER. HE WILL BE OFFICIALLY NOMINATED BY HIS PARTY ON SEPTEMBER 25, AND ELECTED BY THE LAND PARLIAMENT ON SEPT 27.

4. SCHERF'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE SENATORIAL POSITION WAS UNENTHUSIASTIC BECAUSE BREMEN SPD SENATORS MAY NOT HOLD LEADING PARTY POSITIONS. SCHERF WILL THEREFORE BE REQUIRED TO GIVE UP HIS POSITION AS SPD LAND CHAIRMAN. IT IS NO SECRET THAT SCHERF - UNDER WHOM THE LEFT WING OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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BREMEN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS GAINED CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT - WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO STAY PARTY CHAIRMAN INSTEAD OF TAKING OVER, IN HIS EYES, THE LESS INFLUENTIAL POSITION OF SENATOR FOR FINANCE. EVEN IF KOSCHNICK HAD WANTED TO PROPOSE SOMEONE OTHER THAN SCHERF, WHO 6 YEARS AGO RAN AGAINST HIM FOR THE SPD LAND CHAIRMANSHIP AND WON, THE MAYOR COULD NOT BYPASS THE SPD'S LEADING FINANCE EXPERT.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH "HEALTH REASONS" SHOULD NOT BE COMPLETELY EXCLUDED, POLITICAL OBSERVERS AGREE THAT JANTZEN, THE SENATOR THE LEAST CRITICIZED BY CDU AND FDP, WAS WEARY OF THE STRIFE WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY. HE HAD EVER GROWING DIFFICULTY DEFENDING HIS POLITICAL VIEWS WITHIN THE SPD AND EVEN WITHIN THE SENAT, AND WAS NO LONGER WILLING TO ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL PLANS AND POLICIES OF THE LEFT WING WHICH WAS GIVING HIM AN INCREASINGLY ROUGH TIME. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT HIS MAIN OPPONENT SCHERF, WHO PROMOTED THE FAR-REACHING DEFICIT SPENDING POLICY OF THE BREMEN SPD, WILL BECOME HIS SUCCESSOR.

CDU AND FDP REGRETTED JANTZEN'S DECISION AND WARNED AGAINST SUSPECTED "SOCIALIST POLICIES" OF THE PROPOSED NEW SENATOR.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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